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U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** Valve with a deflectable actuating element ~~(1)~~ that controls the movements of at least one actual sealing element ~~(3)~~ for opening and/or closing at least one sealing contour ~~(6)~~, and the actuating element is loaded via an elastic element ~~(5)~~ essentially perpendicularly relative to the direction of the deflection, and the longitudinal axis of the actuating element and the force applied by the elastic element are aligned in a position of the actuating element that is between its two extreme positions wherein the actuating element ~~(1)~~ is realized as a unilaterally mounted piezoelectric bending transducer and wherein the sealing element ~~(3)~~ is realized as a toggle that is arranged with the ability to swing around an axis, and the axis is arranged perpendicularly relative to the direction of the deflection of the actuating element ~~(1)~~.
2. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the axis of the toggle ~~(3)~~ is essentially congruent with a sealing edge ~~(4)~~ that is part of at least one sealing contour ~~(6)~~.
3. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 2 wherein the sealing edge ~~(4)~~ is a central section that is shared by two sealing contours ~~(6, 7)~~.
4. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 3 wherein the sealing edge ~~(4)~~ is present as a line of intersection of two

essentially plane sealing contours ~~(6, 7)~~, and the sealing planes that contain the sealing contours ~~(6, 7)~~ jointly enclose an obtuse angle.

5. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the toggle ~~(3)~~ and the bending transducer ~~(1)~~ feature, respectively, one point of connection for the elastic element ~~(5)~~ and wherein this element ~~(5)~~ is loaded between toggle ~~(3)~~ and bending transducer ~~(1)~~.

6. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the point of action of the bending transducer ~~(1)~~ on the toggle ~~(3)~~ is arranged outside of the plane(s) of the sealing contour ~~(6 or 7)~~.

7. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the point of action of the elastic element ~~(5)~~ on the toggle ~~(3)~~ is arranged outside of the plane that is defined by the point of action of the bending transducer ~~(1)~~ on the toggle ~~(3)~~ and the sealing edge ~~(4)~~.

8. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least two points of action are envisioned on the toggle ~~(3)~~ for the bending transducer ~~(1)~~ which are arranged in the longitudinal direction of the bending transducer ~~(1)~~ and at a distance relative to each other.

9. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the toggle ~~(3)~~ is preloaded on one sealing contour ~~(6, 7)~~ via the elastic element ~~(5)~~ and can be lifted out of its resting position and off that

sealing contour ~~(6, 7)~~ due to the deflection of the bending transducer ~~(1)~~.

10. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the toggle ~~(3)~~ is preloaded on one sealing contour ~~(6)~~ via the elastic element ~~(5)~~ and can be lifted out of its resting position and off that sealing contour ~~(6)~~ due to the deflection of the bending transducer ~~(1)~~ and wherein, in the deflected extreme position of the bending transducer ~~(1)~~, it rests against the second sealing contour ~~(7)~~ sealing the latter.

11. **(Currently Amended)** Valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the toggle ~~(3)~~ features a depression that engages the one end of the bending transducer ~~(1)~~.

12. **(New)** A valve which comprises:

means providing a first sealing contour, a second sealing contour and a pivot axis therebetween,

a toggle element that is pivotable on said pivot axis between a first position wherein it seats against said first sealing contour and a second position wherein it seats on said second sealing contour,

an elongated piezoelectric bending transducer which extends towards said toggle element and is deflectable in a deflection direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis thereof between two extreme positions, the deflection direction being perpendicular to said pivot axis, and

an elastic element which extends between said elongated piezoelectric bending transducer and said toggle to bias said toggle in said first position, a force of said elastic element being parallel with said longitudinal axis when said elongated piezoelectric element is between said two extreme positions thereof.